Sheffield Schools FA (1889)

Sheffield Schools Football Association is the second oldest schools football association and in 1889 Alderman W. S. Clegg presented the Clegg Shield for a football competition for elementary schools. It is the world’s oldest inter-school football trophy and an engraving of a football match recognises Sheffield’s introduction of the crossbar where the posts and bar really are ‘crossed’. Thurlstone were the first winners in 1890 (above) and when they brought home the Shield the villagers and a brass band went to the station to meet the “conquering heroes.”

www.sfss.co.uk

Football Unites Racism Divides (1995)

FURD is a charity which works locally, nationally and internationally to combat racism and increase understanding between communities through football, music, education etc. It was established in 1995 and was one of the founding members of the Football Against Racism in Europe network. It provides coaching, supports teams, organises tournaments and has a resource library. It encourages the recognition of early black footballers such as Andrew Watson, Walter Tull and Arthur Wharton, the first professional player.

www.furd.org

This project celebrates Sheffield’s football heritage and was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It was undertaken by school pupils from All Saints Catholic High School, Forge Valley Community School, Handsworth Grange Community Sports College and Westfield Sports College with support from Football Unites Racism Divides, Hallam FC, Sheffield FC, Sheffield and Hallamshire County Football Association, Sheffield Schools FA, Sheffield United FC and Sheffield Wednesday FC.

www.homeoffootball.net

An early photograph of Sheffield FC
Founded in 1857
Sheffield: The Home of Football

Football, or Soccer, is the most popular spectator sport in the world. The spiritual home of football is in Sheffield and this leaflet provides some details of its remarkable heritage which include:

- Sheffield FC (1857)—the world’s first & oldest club.
- Hallam FC (1860)—oldest football ground.
- The Sheffield Rules (1858) The oldest rules of football.
- First ‘derby’ (1860) Sheffield FC v Hallam FC.
- Bramall Lane—oldest major football ground with the first game played in 1862.
- W. Chesterman recommended a crossbar to the FA (1863).
- Oldest football trophy—Youdan Cup (1867).
- 1860’s—11 v 11 players and 90 minute game.
- First Intl. representative match—Sheffield v Glasgow (1874).
- Bramall Lane—first game under electric light in 1878.
- First insurance scheme for footballers (1867).
- Clegg Shield—first inter-schools trophy (1889/90).
- First radio broadcast—Arsenal v SUFC (1927).

Sheffield FC (1857)

‘The Club’ is the world’s first football club. Since there were no other teams to compete with, the players took part in internal games e.g. Singles v Marrieds, family names A—M would play N—Z, etc. They shaped the origins of the beautiful game which continue to this day. Sheffield proposed to the FA that the ball should not be carried by hand resulting in the divergence of football and rugby. They suggested no hacking (kicking of legs) be allowed, the introduction of the cross-bar, throw in, free-kick, 11-a-side and 90 minute games.

www.sheffieldfc.com

Hallam FC (1860)

Hallam Cricket Club were founded in 1804 and Hallam FC were founded by John Charles Shaw in 1860. ‘The Countrymen’ play at Sandygate which is recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as ‘The Oldest Ground in the World’. They are the second oldest club in the world and took part in the first derby match with Sheffield FC on 26 December 1860. In 1867 they took part in the first organised football tournament and won the Youdan Cup (above) which they still possess.

www.hallamfc.co.uk

Sheffield and Hallamshire County Football Association (1867)

Sheffield and Hallamshire County Football Association, the first area association in England, was established to organise the growing number of local teams and the Youdan Cup—the world’s first football tournament. SHFA also introduced the Sheffield Association Challenge Cup in 1876–77 and it is the fourth oldest competition in the world. The first inter-association game was held in 1871 at Bramall Lane: Sheffield 3 London 1. The Association proposed the introduction of the corner kick to the Football Association in 1872. SHFA also introduced a players accident society, the first for footballers, to which players paid 1/- (5p) on the pre-text that they would receive 12/- (60p) per week if a football accident prevented them from working.

www.sheffieldfa.com

Sheffield Wednesday (1867)

Sheffield Wednesday FC was formed by The Wednesday Cricket Club to keep the members together during the winter months. The ‘Owls’ named from their ground at Owlerton, were founded at the Adelphi Hotel in Sheffield which was where Yorkshire Cricket Club were established a few years earlier in 1863. The former location of the Adelphi is now occupied by the Crucible Theatre home to the World Snooker Championships. Wednesday won the League Championship in 1902–03, 1903–04, 1928–29, 1929–30; FA Cup in 1896, 1907, 1935; League Cup 1991.

www.swfc.co.uk

Sheffield United (1889)

Sheffield United FC was formed in 1889 and adopted the nickname of the ‘Blades’, in recognition of Sheffield’s world-wide reputation for steel production. They won the League Championship in 1898 and FA Cup in 1899, 1902, 1915 and 1925. Their home is Bramall Lane which is the oldest professional stadium in the world and shares the honour, with the Oval, of being the only two stadiums to host an FA Cup Final and a cricket test match. It also hosted games by Yorkshire Cricket Club until 1973. Bramall Lane is famous for a number of firsts including the first ever floodlit match in 1878. This remarkable history can be explored in their museum: Legends of the Lane.

www.sufc.co.uk